

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 17-27 are pending. Claims 17-23 and 27 stand rejected and claims 24-26 are withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action sets forth that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on 2/25/04 failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2). Applicants apologize for any inconvenience and submit herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement with copies of all cited foreign and non-patent references. Applicants respectfully request that the Information Disclosure Statement be acknowledged in the next Official Action.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

The Office Action at page 3, paragraph 8 sets forth "Claims 17-19 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Macover (US 2004/0129755)." Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants submit a Declaration of the inventors (Exhibit A) that shows that applicants' invention predates the effective filing date of the Macover reference. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Macover is improper and should be withdrawn.

Applicants also note that various features of the pending claims are not present in Macover. Applicants need not address these differences at this time in view of the attached Declaration.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Office Action sets forth at page 4, paragraph 11 "Claims 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Macover (US '755)." Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

As noted above, the primary reference Macover cannot stand. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Macover, be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

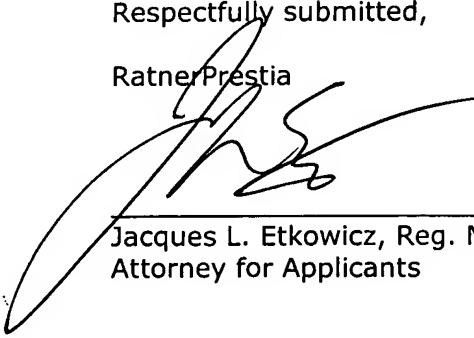
Appln. No.: 10/786,188
Amendment Dated May 31, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 17, 2005

K&S-101US1

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia


Jacques L. Etkowicz, Reg. No. 41,783
Attorney for Applicants

JLE/ks/kpc

Dated: May 31, 2005

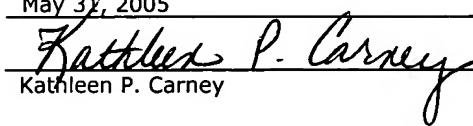
Enclosures: Supplemental IDS
Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.131

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

May 31, 2005


Kathleen P. Carney